turnover. Both the Corporation have earned profits and paid dividends to the Government.

(d) to (f). Consequent upon the decanalisation of import and export of a number of items, Government have been reviewing the need to re-orient STC/MMTC in a manner consistent with the liberalised economy and a competitive environment. STC/MMTC are diversifying their operations through:

- increased emphasis on direct buying and selling,
- strengthening their overseas marketing network;
- entering into joint ventures;
- undertaking open general licence (OGL) imports;
- expanding domestic trading.

Supply of Coal

4504. SHRI DARBARA SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of industries in Punjab are at the verge of closure due to non supply of coal;

(b) if so, the reasons for which Union Government not supplying coal to such industries; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to supply adequate coal to such industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b). No report has been received that industries in Punjab are on the verge of closure due to non-supply of coal.

However, as a result of a higher priority given for supply of coal to the power sector, and as a result of a sharp increase in the demand of coal from this sector, supplies of coal to the industrial consumers has been affected. The total supplies to consumers other than the power sector in Punjab which was 10.47 lakh tonnes (provisional) in 1994-95 has gone down to 6.85 lakh tonnes (provisional) in 1995-96. The total despatch to all the consumers including that of the power sector in Punjab has, in 1995-96 however, increased to 70.68 lakh tonnes (provisional) as against the despatches of 69.16 lakh tonnes (provisional) in 1994-95.

(c) Coal companies are endeavouring to meet the requirements of coal of all consumers in the country including that of consumers in Punjab by increasing production of coal. In addition, coal from a number of collieries is being offered under the Liberalised Sales Scheme under which scheme coal is supplied without the requirements of linkages/sponsorships.

Preparation of Bank Drafts by S.B.I.

4505. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA: (a) Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Bank of India is facing acute shortage of Bank drafts containing denomination of series amounting from Rs. 1000, to Rs. 9,999;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether customers are being forced to get their drafts prepared from other banks; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof and the remedial steps taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). State Bank of India (SBI) have reported that there is no acute shortage of TT series Bank drafts (denomination Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 9999/-) as their branches store adequate number of blank draft forms. SBI have further reported that whenever there is a certain spurt of demand of drafts in any area/pocket immediate arrangement is made by them to ensure supply of adequate quantities of drafts to the concerned Circle Stationery Department who are the agency for control and distribution of security forms to the branches under each Local Head Office.

(c) No such specific report is available in this regard with S.B.I.

(d) Does not arise.

Foreign Investment in India by UNIDO

4506. DR M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the new programmes launched by United Nations Industrial Development Organisation to promote foreign investment in India; and

(b) the extent to which it is likely to help small and medium enterprises in locating their right partner for investment and joint ventures?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b). With the assistance of Ministry of Industry, Government of India, United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) has recently launched a new programme called "Investment & Technology Promotion Initiative" (ITPI). Under this programme, a separate ITPI Office will be set up at New Delhi under the supervision of UNIDO Country Director to undertake certain activities with a view to achieving the following objectives: